



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE APPREHENDS ILLEGAL ALIEN GANG MEMBER

CHICAGO — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is preparing to deport a member of the “Sureños 13” street gang who was taken into custody last week.

José Ernesto Ramirez-Martinez, 31, is a Mexican national and resident of Elgin, Ill. ICE took him into custody Oct. 13 after the Elgin police arrested him for traffic offenses. Ramirez-Martinez has a lengthy arrest record, which includes arrests in Aurora, Ill., Los Angeles and Denver for: attempted robbery, grand theft, drunken driving and possessing a controlled substance. The Elgin Police Department Gang Unit identified Ramirez-Martinez as an associate member of the “Sureños 13” gang. During an interview with an ICE special agent, Ramirez-Martinez admitted that his street gang name is “Scorpion.” He claims to have entered the United States illegally in 1994 by crossing the Mexican border near El Paso, Texas.



“Violent street gangs and their members commit crimes and pose a serious threat to public safety,” said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa Brown. “ICE will use our unique law enforcement resources to target violent gang members, and ultimately remove them from the country to help keep our communities safe.” Brown heads the ICE Chicago Office of Investigations, which includes the states of: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Ramirez-Martinez’ arrest is part of Operation Community Shield, a nationwide ICE anti-gang initiative with the aim to disrupt, dismantle and assist in criminally prosecuting violent gangs by employing the agency’s full range of law enforcement authorities. ICE uses its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative) against gang members, as well as its customs authorities in targeting gang-related narcotics smuggling, gun smuggling, money laundering, and in seeking forfeiture of illegally derived assets. To date, ICE has arrested more than 1,400 gang members under this national initiative.

Operation Community Shield involves strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state and local anti-gang efforts. ICE uses intelligence on gang organization and leadership provided by state and local authorities. This information is then used whenever possible to arrest, prosecute and/or deport individual gang members.

Ramirez-Martinez remains in ICE custody awaiting deportation to Mexico.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.